

him for a state-of-the-art live fire training tower complex, multipurpose classrooms and an emergency operating center.

Chief White also obtained regional training center status for trench rescue, confined space rescue, rescue systems 1 & 2, authored the San Francisco Bay Area Maritime Fire, Rescue and EMS Automatic Aid Agreement, and he promoted the department's participation in Urban Shield.

Chief White applied his "can do" attitude to his volunteer and community service as well. He served on several county committees reviewing pre-hospital care issues at the advanced life support level. Chief White also coordinated CPR training for citizens and he promoted outreach programs such as Day In The Park, Fire Prevention Week, Junior Fire Academy, Christmas Toy Drives, Jazz by the Bay and USO Bay Area.

His hard work and optimism have earned him the utmost respect and gratitude at the South San Francisco Fire Department. His fellow fire fighters credit him with the prevention of layoffs and fire station closures, top-notch training facilities and outstanding moral. I was told they even promised Chief White that his fire station will be number 1 in Urban Shield next year.

In his well-deserved retirement, Chief White is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 32 years, Donna, their four children, three grandchildren and his beloved Labrador retriever Bella. He will also enjoy more trips to our national parks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Chief Philip D. White for his generous contributions and deep commitment to South San Francisco residents. He will be missed but never forgotten.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on August 1st. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "yes."  
On rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "yes."  
On rollcall No. 430, I would have voted "no."  
On rollcall No. 431, I would have voted "yes."  
On rollcall No. 432, I would have voted "no."  
On rollcall No. 433, I would have voted "no."  
On rollcall No. 434, I would have voted "no."  
On rollcall No. 435, I would have voted "yes."  
On rollcall No. 436, I would have voted "no."

#### HONORING MR. EMMIT ELLIS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Emmitt Ellis, Jr.,

professionally known as "Bobby Rush", an award-winning rhythm and blues artist—composer, musician, singer; and I'm proud to say a resident of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

Emmit Ellis, Jr. was born in the small town of Homer, Louisiana to father Emmit Sr. and mother Mattie Ellis. Emmit Ellis, Jr. later adopted his stage name "Bobby Rush" out of respect for his father standing in the community as a minister.

Bobby's passion for music began early during his childhood, as he built his first primitive guitar from a broom. At age 13, his family moved to Chicago, IL, where he formed his own band and performed locally at "juke joints" playing the guitar. He later incorporated the harmonica into his repertoire of singing and guitar playing, thereby creating his own unique musical flair dubbed "folk-funk" music.

His zeal for music and innate talent afforded him the opportunity to perform with musical legends such as Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and Ray Charles. His colorful style in music was recognized when he became the only Blues artist to win the highest honor in both "Best Acoustic Artist of the Year" at the Blues Music Awards for his album *Rush*, and "Best Soul Blues Artist."

Mr. Rush also became a Grammy nominee in 2000 for his album *Hoochie Mama*. His popularity continues to this day: this year, he was again nominated for "Male Soul Blues Artist" at the Blues Music Awards.

He is also an internationally recognized artist, and, in fact, was the first artist to perform Blues at the Great Wall of China to an audience of 40,000. His dedication to promote peace through the language of music has not gone unnoticed. He was recognized as the Friendship Ambassador and Spokesperson to the Great Wall of China Foundation; and referred to as the "International Dean of the Blues".

In addition to performing at the Great Wall of China and other international venues, he has also performed in the most esteemed concert halls in the United States including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Rush maintains strong relationships with his fans, often performing to purely share his passion for music with others. He has demonstrated his patriotism and charity by performing for our troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, and has supported projects for prisons and at-risk youth. He also annually entertains veterans and active servicemen through his own Red, White and Blues Jam where he gives more than 2,000 free tickets to veterans to attend.

He continues to perform locally, and plays for charity events and mentors other artists. The compassion and generosity that Mr. Rush consistently expresses are truly commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Emmitt Ellis, Jr. (Bobby Rush) for his outstanding talent, community service, and dedication to sharing the Blues with the world.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

#### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.

After 16 months of construction, 20,700 cubic yards of concrete, 798 tons of reinforcing steel, 6,550 tons of structural steel, 555 tons of cable materials and 575,000 man hours of labor, the bridge system opened 10 weeks ahead of schedule, on August 18, 1938. At the dedication ceremony, with 25,000 onlookers lining along the border, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King shared the stage, highlighting the unique and special relationship of the U.S. and Canada.

The U.S.-Canada relationship is not only an economic one, but one shared in common principles. While the U.S.-Canada trade relationship is the largest one in the world, accounting for nearly \$700 billion in goods and services, our nations share representative democracy, individual liberty, and a common interest of opportunity for all. With nearly 2,000,000 crossings annually along the Thousand Islands International Bridge System, tourists from both the U.S. and Canada can explore the region's unique geographic and cultural offerings. Today, the bridge system continues to demonstrate the rare and long-standing common bond shared between the two countries.

I rise today to recognize this time in history, and to also congratulate the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority on this achievement and their excellent work.

#### HONORING RICHARD ("RICK") FOSTER

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2013*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleague the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee SANDER LEVIN to recognize and thank Richard ("Rick") Foster, the Chief Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for his service to the nation. Rick retired this year after nearly 40 years of public service, including the last 18 years as the chief actuary.

Mr. Foster and his colleagues in the Office of the Actuary (OACT) have provided valuable guidance through the years to Members of Congress and their staffs on both sides of the aisle as we have worked to improve Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. OACT's estimates are used to calculate key indices and other measures used throughout Medicare's payment systems. OACT also manages the widely used and often cited National Health Expenditure (NHE) account data and projections, which measure national health spending trends in both public programs and the private sector. Whether responding to technical or confidential requests